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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 10, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JASON CHAFFETZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

EGYPTIAN ORPHANAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) for 1 minute.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, I am mindful of events occurring in Egypt. And I want to extend my congratulations to the Lillian Trasher Orphanage of Asyut, Egypt, which is celebrating 100 years of service this month. As our ally Egypt stands on the cusp of a new future, one hopefully based on respect for democracy and human rights, we honor the people who have worked for decades to build an educated and productive civil society there.

The Lillian Trasher Orphanage, begun in 1911 by an American from Jacksonville, Florida, is one of the oldest and longest-serving charities in the world. It currently serves over 600 children, along with widows and staff. This pillar of the community has been home to thousands of children who needed food, shelter, and a family. Orphanage graduates serve around the world as bankers, doctors, pastors, teachers, and even in the U.S. Government.

Despite many challenges over the years, the wonderful staff, now led by George and Fathia Assad, has continued serving the children no matter what the circumstances. We applaud that cloud of witnesses over the past 100 years who have supported this organization through service, friendship, prayers, and donations. And we support and stand with this great institution and voice our ongoing support for this and other similar Egyptian grassroots organizations during this critical period in the nation's history.

HONORING BEV RENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, there are 435 Members of the House of Representatives. We come from all over the country, and every one of us encounters people from the towns and cities and rural parts of our district that inspire us through the heroic action that they exhibit every day of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about one of those heroic people that I've known for 35 years. Her name is Bev Rens, and I met her when I was working with her husband at a grain elevator in the small town of Hartwick, Iowa. I later got to know her better playing softball for a team called the Front Street Tap located in Brooklyn, Iowa, and Bev's voice was always the

loudest voice on the field because that's the kind of person that she is. She is passionate, she is fierce in her dedication to her friends, and she has devoted her entire life to making her community, her State, and her country a better place for all Americans.

Bev recently had a curveball thrown at her when she was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS—Lou Gehrig's Disease. Bev has always taken life head-on, and that's how she addressed this challenge, the same way she has lived her life every day that she has spent on this Earth. She didn't get into self-pity. She started thinking about what she could do to stay connected to her friends, her family, and the important issues that she has cared about all of her life.

Those of us who have known Bev have known her as a nurse, as a community volunteer, and a political activist. And, in fact, her start in politics began in 1988 in the Iowa caucuses when she went to caucus for a candidate named Jesse Jackson. And she participated in her last Iowa caucus for another political candidate named Barack Obama. Bev recently celebrated her birthday on February 3, and you can see her surrounded in this picture by friends and family, including a granddaughter that is the light of her life.

But one of the things that Bev's life teaches us is that we face challenges every day, and no challenge is too great for us to solve if we come together in a spirit of cooperation and a belief in the common good, that we can solve the problems that we face as a country. And that's why I am here talking about my friend Bev Rens, because she is an inspiration to all of us in terms of what we can do to fight for a better America.

She decided a long time ago that access to health care was an important priority being denied millions of Americans, and she knew that from her

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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work as a front-line care provider taking care of sick people and trying to take care of them in their end of life experiences, which is one of the most precious times that a family gets to spend together. So as a nurse, Bev fought for health care improvement that would improve quality of care to patients and expand access to care so that no American family could say that a loved one died because they didn't have access to the type of care that all Americans deserve.

It's important for those of us who are struggling with this issue of how we provide quality, affordable health care to Americans to think about inspirational people like Bev and what she has done her entire life to help people in need, whether as a community volunteer, as a nurse, as an activist. What is the legacy that we will leave to our children and grandchildren when they look back at this Congress and say, What did you do to help me in my time of need? Because Bev never worries about that question. She says, I'll be the first one in, and I will fight until I don't have any breath in me left to give. That's why you'll still find Bev on her computer every day, networked with friends around the country, talking about issues of vital public importance, trying to be part of the important discussion that Americans have every day about improving the quality of this country.

And predictably, in the wonderful small town where I grew up, Brooklyn, Iowa, Bev's story has inspired many others to pick up the cause, and they formed what has been called Bev's Brigade, an army of loyal volunteers who show up at her house every day to take care of her basic needs after a lifetime of helping others. It's one way we pay it forward in this country, through the example that others have given us, to think every day about what we can do to help each other. And that's why Bev is an example to all of us of what the American spirit is all about.

REMEMBERING AMANDA ROS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, I lost an irreplaceable part of my family. My mother, Amanda Ros, passed away from complications due to Alzheimer's. She was a warm, loving, and caring woman who led an extraordinary life. She was my father's rock, soulmate, best friend, and companion for 65 years. They led a unique and joyous life. She always kept him company and guided him with her wisdom and her kindness.

It was her strength that helped our family transition as we fled the Castro regime and settled in south Florida. It was her determination and sense of purpose that inspired my father and her to start a small freight forwarding company in Miami that they ran together for over 30 years.

Abu Mandy, as we called her, was an amazing grandmother. When I was first elected to Congress, my kids were very young, and my mother was an unwavering source of support, taking care of them and traveling with me whenever I was in D.C. Her actions made my transition to Congress all the more manageable. My most ambitious goal was never to be a Member of Congress or to be chair of an important committee; it was to be for my children the kind of mother that she was to me.

□ 1010

She always taught me to be proud of my Cuban heritage and of my Jewish legacy.

My mother had many causes that were near and dear to her heart. First and foremost, both my parents championed the cause of a free Cuba. They participated in many projects to achieve this noble goal, and it saddens me deeply that my mother did not live long enough to see this goal of a free Cuba become a reality.

Her other passion, Mr. Speaker, was promoting organ donations. My mother believed in a world where individuals would help and care for one another. She believed that organ donation was the least that one could do for others, and I hope that others heed my mother's passion and become enthusiasts of organ donations.

Losing someone we love to Alzheimer's is sadly becoming all too common in our country. They call Alzheimer's disease "the long goodbye," and it is something that no family should have to go through. You see a person whom you remember to be full of life, wonder and passion become a shell of her former self.

It destroys brain cells and causes memory changes, erratic behaviors and loss of body functions. It slowly and painfully took away my mom's identity, her ability to connect with others, to think, to eat, to talk, to walk, to find her way home.

Every 70 seconds someone new develops Alzheimer's. Too often Alzheimer's falls under the wrongly held belief that it's an expected part of aging. We must raise awareness of the disease and provide a voice to the voiceless. We must improve early screening and detection, giving families and loved ones a better chance to prepare for and slow the onset of this disease.

Families living with an Alzheimer's loved one need all the support that they can get. My mother was fortunate to have our entire family rallying around her, as well as outstanding medical personnel who helped us manage the disease.

Eighty-seven percent of the time, it is family members who are the primary caregivers. Family members need assistance. It is tough for families to deal with everyday struggles of caring for loved ones with this disease, and the emotional stress is quite high. One-third of caregivers develop symptoms of the disease. The financial toll is significant.

My mother may be gone, but her legacy and love will forever be a constant presence in our lives, and we must all work together for a cure for Alzheimer's.

EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let me first identify with the two previous speakers and offer my sincerest condolences and heartfelt feelings.

Mr. Speaker, there is no higher sacrifice in our Nation than military service. Our men and women in uniform serve honorably, whether they are stationed at a base here in the United States or serving in a combat zone far from home.

Some join the military out of patriotism. Some join in order to see the world. But for many, those motivations are coupled with another factor: the lack of jobs in our communities. Facing shaky prospects, many young people turn to military service as an honorable, good-paying career.

But too many veterans end up unemployed when they leave the military. After dodging bullets on the battlefield, they find themselves jobless in the marketplace.

In the last few weeks, I've issued a call for unemployed Americans to send me their resumes at resumesforamerica@mail.house.gov so that I may enter their stories into the RECORD as a way of dramatizing the shameful unemployment problem in this Nation. I've heard from thousands of Americans, including a number of veterans, who are struggling under the weight of unemployment.

Mushi Israel of San Diego, California, is a Navy veteran who served for 20 years. He's an information technology specialist who's been out of work for an entire year. As Mr. Israel said, "There are a lot of great people who are out of work like myself who believe in the American Dream and society and just want to do an honest day's work for an honest day's pay."

David Reinke of Burbank, California, was an Army lieutenant who received an honorable discharge in 1980. Although Lieutenant Reinke said in an email to me that his service was "brief and undistinguished," I beg to differ. Anybody who puts on a uniform is distinguished and has the right to a good life right here in America.

David worked for an event staging company for over 20 years. As he put it, "Unfortunately the economic downturn forced our company to lay off 50 percent of the staff in an attempt to remain economically viable. I was one of those casualties."

So after serving our country, Lieutenant Reinke became an economic casualty. He lost his job in January of 2010 and has been substitute teaching, where he tries to make ends meet.